

## **Overflow Winter Shelter TB Project Report**

April 2008

The Utah Department of Health's Tuberculosis Control/Refugee Health Program recently completed the Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance Project at the Community Winter Emergency Shelter (CWES) in Midvale, UT. The TB Control/Refugee Health Program, in coordination with the Road Home Homeless Shelter and Wasatch Homeless Health Care Clinic (Fourth Street Clinic), ensured TB testing and treatment for the homeless population. To accommodate those residents who would otherwise be on the streets, the CWES is open during Utah's cold winter months. Tuberculin Skin Tests (TSTs) are placed to identify those residents who have been infected with latent TB infection or active TB disease. New residents have a TST placed as part of a targeted testing project to protect the health of all shelter residents. Residents who return to the emergency shelter are encouraged to be tested annually to assure there has been no contact with the disease.

The shelter opened November 1, 2007 and closed March 31, 2008. The TB Control/Refugee Health Program staff and volunteers placed and read TSTs during this time. Tests were placed on Monday and Tuesday nights. Residents returned Wednesday and Thursday nights to have their results read. Residents with previous positive TSTs were referred to Fourth Street Clinic for further evaluation and follow up. To encourage residents to return for their results, incentives including socks, suckers, and \$5 food coupons were offered.

A total of 343 TSTs were placed and 275 returned for their results. Nine (9) positive skin tests and 3 negative chest x-rays were reported. There were no suspected active cases. No active cases were identified. Testing at the CWES has proven effective in identifying and treating latent and active TB in the high risk, homeless population of Salt Lake City, Utah.